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PAGE 8

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Public school class size problem persists, data finds

Senior-student study.

Superintendent
pledges to look at
impact on learners

Arrival of the winter semester doesn't appear to have had any effect in reducing record senior-student class sizes being seen in Calgary public schools.

New data published last week by the Calgary Board of Education indicates 16 of 22 high schools reported in late February core-class head counts over the 27-student benchmark recommended as a provincial standard.

Of those schools, 11 reported averages more than 30 — Winston Churchill's count was highest at 32.6.

The CBE has already faced a firestorm of criticism from parents, students and even quietly from administrators after it moved to cut high-school funding during last spring's budget negotiations. Officials said repeatedly in the fall they hoped some changes to teaching configurations and timetables would help cut down on the number of classrooms bursting at the seams.

But Cathy Faber, the CBE's superintendent for learning innovation, said in an interview her department would be closely examining students results and their reported experiences

this year to determine whether the added bodies in classrooms have had a major impact. Echoing comments made previously by provincial Education Minister Jeff Johnson, Faber said other factors, like the quality of the teacher, can play a bigger role in student success.

"There are some trade-offs that principals have had to make," Faber conceded. "It is about this balancing act that principals have to go through to accommodate this range of students they're serving."

In February, the board's official class-size submission to Alberta Education appeared to confirm the fears of many warning about the cuts, as average Grade 10-12 class sizes jumped 10 per cent year-over-year to 29.6. Five years ago, the same classes saw an average of just 24.2 learners.

When informed of Faber's remarks, a high-school administrator, who spoke to Metro on condition of anonymity, chalked it up to "major spin-doctoring."

"To suggest or pretend that class size won't have an impact is nonsense," said the official. "Everybody that works in a school knows that, and anybody outside of the school at the director level suggesting it won't have an impact is pretending that the lack of funding isn't an issue."

Earlier this month, CBE Chief Superintendent Naomi

Johnson reiterated to reporters that research indicates keeping class sizes small has the greatest impact among younger students. The CBE data provided to the province indicted kindergarten to Grade 3 class sizes rose just 0.1 per cent this year and no change was reported for grades four to six.

But the administrator said many parents openly expressed fears about current classroom conditions during recent round of teacher interviews.

"Parents are saying, 'My kid's in a Math 10-C class, for example, and needs some extra help. He comes in the morning for tutorial time and if he gets five minutes (with the teacher) he's lucky,'" the official explained.

The largest single class sizes were seen at Forest Lawn and Ernest Manning High Schools, with both reporting at least one room with 44 kids in it.

The administrator said there are also whispers of further cuts to high schools ahead of the 2014-15 school year as the CBE stares down an operating-budget shortfall of \$27 million.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

On the web

For a full breakdown
of reported high
school class sizes,
head to metronews.ca.



YOUNG LIFE LOST ON BLACKFOOT TRAIL

Eqlbal Karimyar, also known as Romie Sultani, was identified by friends as the 19-year-old driver of an Acura Integra who was killed in a single-vehicle collision on Blackfoot Trail over the weekend. Police said the Integra was travelling at "excessive speed" when it lost control and collided with a sign post bearing an anti-speeding message. Friends remembered Karimyar as a friendly and gregarious young man who "kept everyone happy around him." For the story, see page 2. CONTRIBUTED



Friends identified Eqbal Karimyar, also known as Romie Sultani, as the 19-year-old driver killed in a single-vehicle collision in Calgary Saturday night. DARREN KRAUSE/METRO

Man killed in crash 'kept everyone happy'

Blackfoot Trail.

Speeding Integra lost control on snowy road, crashed into signpost bearing anti-speeding message



ROBSON
FLETCHER

robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Friends of Eqbal Karimyar, many of whom knew him as "Romie," say they'll remember the young man for his gregarious personality and his uncanny ability to make

people around him smile.

"He was like a brother to me.... He was an easy person to get along with, very friendly and outgoing," Jagbir Ghuman told Metro on Sunday, after learning his friend had been killed in a car crash.

Karimyar was identified by multiple friends as the 19-year-old driver of the Acura Integra that lost control on a snowy Calgary street Saturday night.

Police said the crash happened at about 11:15 p.m. in the 9200 block of Blackfoot Trail SE, and cited "excessive speed" as a factor.

According to the investigation, the Integra lost control

while trying to overtake another vehicle, spun out and smashed driver's-side-first into a signpost anchored by a concrete block.

The sign was left crumpled on the ground, its message still legible: "Speeding 10 km/h over the limit. Risk of injury or death increases 73%."

Karimyar was pronounced dead at the scene.

The three other occupants of the vehicle — aged 15, 16, and 18 — were taken to hospital in stable, non-life-threatening condition, said EMS spokesman Stuart Brideaux.

Gurjinder Singh went to high school with Karimyar in

Montreal and described him as his "closest friend."

He said Karimyar moved to Calgary last year with his brothers and parents, who had previously lived in Toronto and were originally from Afghanistan.

"They are all really amazing people," he said of the family.

Singh said he had spoken with Karimyar earlier on Saturday, just chatting about "anything and everything," and couldn't believe the news when he heard of the fatal crash.

"He was a great guy ... funny and always kept everyone happy around him."

School teacher

Calgary woman killed in Afghanistan remembered

The family of a Calgary woman killed in Afghanistan last week said they hope to have her home soon. The body of Zeenab Kassam, who was volunteering as a school teacher, was headed back to Canada Sunday. Kassam was gunned down Thursday in a Taliban attack on a Kabul hotel.

Kassam's family's statement asked for privacy in the interim, but said they looked forward to telling the story of her life: "Once the body arrives in Calgary, the family will be available to make a statement on the inspiring and amazing story of her life." **METRO**

Southeast Calgary

2 in hospital after crash with train

Two young men were seriously injured when a freight train struck their minivan in southeast Calgary late Saturday night, according to police.

The minivan drove onto the CN tracks at 68 Street SE around 9:10 p.m., according to the initial investigation, which determined that the crossing signals were working. The train struck the van on the passenger side and pushed it into a crossing-signal pole. The passenger, a 22-year-old male, suffered "critical head injuries" while the driver, another 22-year-old male, suffered "major injuries." Police said the driver's failure to obey the crossing signals is considered a factor in the crash. Speed and alcohol are not. **METRO**





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Dave Hancock sworn in as Alberta's 15th premier

The new boss.

Redford's resignation now complete

It's official — Dave Hancock is now the 15th premier of Alberta.

Hancock took the oath of office in front of fellow caucus members, family and guests in a short ceremony at Government House on Sunday evening.

"I'm honoured by the confidence my colleagues have placed in me and I'm humbled by the sense of responsibility and the opportunity to serve," Hancock said in a speech.

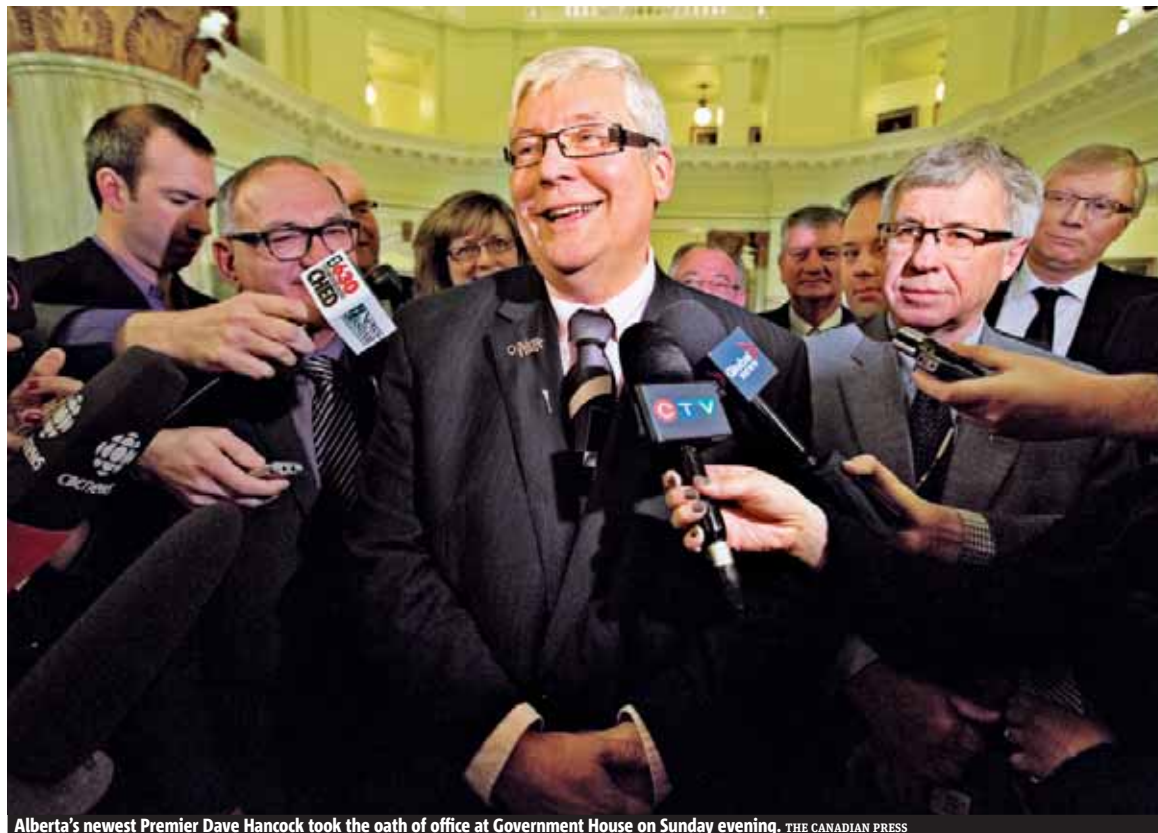
Minutes before Hancock took the oath, government whip George VanderBurg formally submitted Alison Redford's written resignation as premier to Alberta Chief Justice Catherine Fraser.

Redford was not at the ceremony, but Hancock paid tribute to her.

"She worked tirelessly to promote our province and to build its place in Canada and the world," he said.

Hancock was voted by the governing Progressive Conservative caucus to take over from Redford after she resigned Wednesday amid internal strife.

He said he understands he will only serve as premier



Alberta's newest Premier Dave Hancock took the oath of office at Government House on Sunday evening. THE CANADIAN PRESS

until the party picks a permanent replacement in the coming months.

"I'm only too aware that my term as premier is finite

and short," he said.

"But it's critical that we continue to build Alberta together."

Hancock, the Edmonton-Whitemud MLA, has worked for 17 years in the legislature in seven portfolios, along with duties as government house leader.

He was deputy premier under Redford and later told reporters he doubts he will

name another deputy premier.

"I'm not planning to make any real changes in cabinet," he said.

Hancock has already said he plans to keep his other job as advanced education minister.

PC party officials meet Monday in Red Deer to set the rules and deadlines for the leadership race.

Under party rules, the vote

must be held no earlier than four months from now and no later than six.

Hancock said he will respect the tradition that any cabinet ministers who decide to run must resign from cabinet to prevent any candidate from having an unfair advantage.

Hancock has said he won't run for the job.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Highrise blaze

Electrical fire doused downtown

No one was injured after two alarms were set off in side-by-side towers in Calgary's downtown late Saturday afternoon.

When firefighters arrived to the buildings located in the 300 block of 3 Street SE, they searched the building looking for the problem and found a fire in one of the electrical rooms.

The fire was controlled by the building's sprinkler system, fire officials said.

Enmax and the fire department worked together to ensure firefighters could safely reach the fire to make sure it was out, and to make sure emergency power was available to residents. Investigators have yet to determine a cause for the fire. METRO

Northwest

Graffiti vandals sought after weekend spree

Northwest Calgary residents woke up to art of an unpleasant type Saturday morning and police are looking for the culprits.

Calgary police were called out to Arbour Lake after an unknown number of culprits sprayed graffiti all over about a dozen vehicles, residences and garages. The targets were all located along Arbour Lake Way and Arbour Ridge Way NW.

Police are looking for additional victims and/or witnesses in this spray spree.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Const. Thorne at 403-428-6500 or 403-266-1234. METRO

Quoted

"I'm only too aware that my term as premier is finite and short."

Alberta's 15th premier Dave Hancock

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Critical mass. Cycling groups looking to unite provincewide

Cycling groups in Calgary and Edmonton are currently focusing their advocacy efforts at the municipal level, but they're also looking to join forces and make their voices heard within the Alberta legislature.

"Dealing with provincial issues takes a lot more resources than dealing with our local, municipal issues," said Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society (EBC) executive director Christopher Chan. "We're all kind of at the stage where we're looking at it and thinking we need it and it'd be good but each individual

organization hasn't dedicated the resources yet to make that happen."

EBC did organize its first provincial cycling conference last fall, bringing people together from Calgary, Red Deer and elsewhere, and plans to hold another this year.

But Chan said province-wide advocacy is still nascent in Alberta compared to other provinces, mostly notably Ontario, and its Share the Road Cycling Coalition, which was heavily involved in new legislation re-writing that province's traffic laws.

Bike Calgary director Dale Calkins said Share the Road does "a very good job" in Ontario and he was impressed by what its CEO, Eleanor McMahon, had to say during her speech at a recent winter-cycling conference in Winnipeg.

"It definitely hammered home to me that we could really benefit from having a provincial cycling organization," Calkins said.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Quoted

"It definitely hammered home to me that we could really benefit from having a provincial cycling organization."

Bike Calgary director Dale Calkins, about Share the Road Cycling Coalition in Ontario.

Bike Calgary campaigns ahead of cycle track vote



Dale Calkins of Bike Calgary checks out the 7 Street SW cycle track during its launch in July 2013. METRO FILE

Blog series. The new advocacy approach comes five weeks before council decides



ROBSON FLETCHER
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Just over a month ahead of a key council vote on Calgary's downtown cycle track network, advocates are launching a new campaign in support of the plan.

Starting Monday, Bike Calgary will feature a series of short essays on its website by a variety of authors.

The first author is Coun. Evan Woolley, who said he hopes to shift the public discourse ahead of council's April 28 meeting, where the cycle-track plan is due up for a significant vote.

Woolley said he wants to move away from the "vitriol"

that has characterized much of the recent discussion and toward "a real, honest conversation" about cycling infrastructure. "If we're going to move forward and be the kind of big city we want to be ... this is the kind of infrastructure we need to build," he said.

Agustin Louro of Bike Calgary said the series is expected to include eight essays from "a variety of community and business leaders" in Calgary.

"We want to show the broad support the cycle track network is receiving," Louro said.

Cycle Track

\$20M

The estimated cost to build the rest of Calgary's Centre City Cycle Track Network. Last year, an 800-metre stretch of physically separated roadway for cyclists was built on 7 Street SW at a cost of roughly \$1 million.



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Week 1 - Country of contrasts. City councillor reflects during trip to Haiti for aid work

Haiti is a country of deep contrasts. After almost a week here, they jump out more each day.

As I write this, I am on a terrace overlooking Port-Au-Prince, beside the pool of the hotel where I am staying. It's quite a lovely hotel that would probably qualify as a resort, other than it was almost completely destroyed in the earthquake and is still rebuilding.

Many of the foreign NGO's working in Haiti have their visitors stay here. The parking lot is usually full of SUV's with stickers on them from the different organizations from the UN to the Red Cross. Drivers linger in the shade as people come and go for meetings at the hotel.

The pool is surrounded by palm trees, the hillside around the hotel is full of trees and flowers and birds. There are a few foreign embassies in the area. In other words, rich, beautiful, tropical!

I leave that to go to my room, and look off the balcony on the other side. There, right

Details

For an update on Brian's full week in Haiti, visit metronews.ca.

across the street, is a home that was destroyed and has not been rebuilt.

I overlook the hillside opposite that has chaotic rebuilding on it, with no streets, ramshackle houses built on top of each other going up the slope. At the bottom of the hill, and closest to me, are the displaced.

They live in tarped huts made of sheet metal roofing, don't have running water or electricity and I have no idea where they go to the bathroom.

There are few trees as most have been cut down for firewood or charcoal. There is dust and garbage everywhere. In other words, unsanitary, desolate, a slum.

BRIAN PINCOTT/FOR METRO

Parking authority to roll out scan-to-park service



Parking convenience.
New technology planned to be in place by summertime



JEREMY NOLAÏS
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Calgary commuters can already turn to loose change, credit cards, a text message, smartphone apps or even a standard phone call to pay for parking.

Soon, they'll be able to scan too.

The Calgary Parking Authority is working to add smartphone-friendly QR barcodes to its pay terminals in the near future, allowing customers to scan and then be redirected to a website requiring just a few quick details about their parking session.

Officials also hope to establish a pay-as-you-go account

system that will allow for even faster parking transactions.

"Our goal is to have something in place for the Stampede," said Troy McLeod, the parking authority's general manager. "Summer is typically a really busy time for Calgary and we want to be able to provide that user functionality for people using the ParkPlus system."

People scanning one of the authority's barcodes will be able to end their parking session remotely using their phone, McLeod said.

He said the QR technology is just the latest step towards a futuristic world where the customer won't need to do a thing to pay for parking.

"We want to make sure we're prepared for when vehicles communicate with the system," he said. "At some point in the future, your vehicle will park and it will be able to effectively communicate with our system, activate (and) deactivate sessions."

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Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois visits Sainte-Angèle-de-Prémont, Que., on Day 19 of the Quebec provincial election campaign on Sunday. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PQ: 'We don't want this election stolen by people from Ontario'

Provincial politics.

Party's concerns have arisen after reports of non-francophones from outside Quebec trying to vote on April 7

The Parti Québécois says it's worried students from Ontario and the rest of Canada are trying to steal the provincial election.

The PQ called a news conference on Sunday morning in order to express concern about media reports of English-speakers and other non-francophones from outside of the province trying to vote in the April 7 election.

PQ candidate Bertrand St-Arnaud wants the province's chief electoral officer to closely examine attempts to register to vote.

"We don't want this election stolen by people from Ontario and the rest of Canada," St-Arnaud said.

Another PQ candidate, former student leader Leo Bureau-Blouin, added he wants to ensure the election is decided by Quebecers.

"We want to make sure that it's Quebecers who choose their government and we want to make sure that the chief electoral officer takes the measures that are needed," he said.

"We are concerned by the fact that many, many people who are not registered on the list want to be registered."

St-Arnaud said he found a report in Sunday's Journal de Montreal particularly troubling. It described an attempt by "hundreds of Ontario students" to vote against the Parti Québécois' leader Pauline Marois.

Quebec's chief electoral officer issued a statement on Saturday clarifying the rules.

Spokesman Denis Dion said voters must be Canadian citizens and have lived in Quebec for six months, and have the intention of making Quebec their home.

Voter-registration concerns

The PQ's comments come after the head of an electoral office for a Montreal riding resigned over concerns about the registration process.

- Mathieu Vandal told Montreal's Le Devoir newspaper there had been an increase in the number of non-francophones trying to register and he wasn't confident voters were being properly screened.

- Some students have complained they were turned away even though they believed they had the necessary documentation.

He said officials also take into account other evidence, such as proof of a bank account in a Quebec institution, a Quebec health insurance card or driver's licence, or a Quebec income tax return.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lotto lull

Agencies want the lottery to go viral

Millennials aren't buying lottery tickets as much

as their parents do, so provincial lottery agencies are trying to develop a new national lottery aimed at people under 35.

A spokeswoman for

the Western Canada Lottery Corp. said "the kinds of games we're offering ... are not necessarily as appealing to today's younger adults."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Criminologist to track trolls with language

It's the crime of the future, but it's not against the law — yet.

Sometimes it seems like trolls are everywhere online, using bullying or shock tactics to try to get a reaction from people. But one criminologist thinks he can help stop them, and his plan is a global first.

Western University's Mike Arntfield has gained federal funding to study the trolls' language. He has research assistants collecting text samples from social media, with the eventual aim of drawing up a "lexicon" of the way trolls talk.

And, just like criminal profiling allows experts to predict the behaviour of killers and other violent offenders, that lexicon could provide signposts that show when trolls are about to do something more sinister.

"I'm surprised to some



Criminologist Mike Arntfield
METRO

extent that I'm the first scholar to study this using (social media posts)," said Arntfield, who is also studying the relationship between online bullies and their victims. The reaction from victims can be a variable in how a bully behaves.

"It's all uncharted territory in studying cyber-bullying," said Arntfield, who also leads the OWN TV show To Catch a Killer.

He says "lexical choices" could be tracked, then used as "linguistic clues" in predicting how a person behaves in the future.

There may even be similarities between trolls who are otherwise from different age groups or places; Arntfield says it's possible there is an "online bullying creole" of recurring words in posts and screen names that can flag a troll.

But why study this, if it's not against the law? Because one day it might be, Arntfield explained. He predicted a time when legislation is drawn up to criminalize online bullying, which has already driven some people to suicide, and to do that it needs to be defined.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

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Cyclists hold a banner as they take a moment of silence during the Ride of Prayer for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 outside the departure hall of Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, Sunday. JOSHUA PAUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Possible flight debris seen again in search zone

Malaysia Airlines. French images show 'potential objects' in area previously flagged by Australia, China

France provided new satellite data Sunday showing possible debris from the missing Malaysia Airlines jet, as searchers combing a remote part of the southern Indian Ocean tried without success to locate a pallet that could be a key clue in solving one of the world's biggest aviation mysteries.

The new information given to Malaysia's government and forwarded to searchers in Australia shows

"potential objects" in the same part of the ocean where satellite images previously released by Australia and China showed objects that could be debris from the plane, Malaysia's Ministry of Transport said in a statement without providing further details.

Flight 370 went missing over the Gulf of Thailand on March 8 with 239 people aboard en route from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing, setting off a multinational search effort that has turned up nothing conclusive so far on what happened to the jet.

Sunday's search was frustrating because "there was cloud down to the surface and at times we were completely enclosed by cloud," Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lt.

Pallet problem

Information about the new data emerged as authorities co-ordinating the search sent planes and a ship to try to "re-find" a wooden pallet that appeared to be surrounded by straps of varying lengths and colours.

- It was spotted Saturday by spotters in a search plane, but no images were captured of it and a military plane dispatched to locate the pallet could not find it.

Russell Adams told reporters. He said nothing of interest to searchers was found.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukrainian president calls for officer's release

A Ukrainian air force commander is being held after his base in Crimea was stormed by pro-Russian forces, and the acting president called for his release Sunday.

Col. Yuliy Mamchur is the commander of the Belbek Air Force base near Sevastopol, which was taken over Saturday by forces who sent armoured personnel carriers

smashing through the base's walls and fired shots and stun grenades. One Ukrainian serviceman was reported wounded in the clash.

It was unclear if the forces, who didn't bear insignia, were Russian military or local pro-Russia militia.

Ukraine President Oleksandr Turchynov, in a statement, said Mamchur was

"abducted" by the forces. He didn't specify where Mamchur is believed to be held.

However, prominent politician Vitali Klitschko said Sunday that Mamchur is being held by the Russian military in a jail in Sevastopol, the Crimean city that is the base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Far North turf war

Five countries lay claim to territory around the North Pole. Some of those claims conflict, while other countries, like China, want the Arctic to be deemed an international zone. So far, the Arctic has remained peaceful, but as countries scramble for resources, how long will that peace last?

DYLAN C. ROBERTSON

For Metro in Toronto

As polar ice melts away, rising temperatures are unlocking oil, trade routes and the potential for conflict in the Far North.

"It's the opening chapter of what's going to amount to be a very long story, and people are playing nice and working together — for now," says Robert Huebert, a University of Calgary professor and expert in circumpolar relations and defence policy.

Five countries claim territory around the North Pole: Canada, Russia, the United States (through Alaska), Norway and Denmark (through Greenland). Some claims conflict,

while other countries like China want the Arctic to be deemed an international zone.

Polar ice has been steadily decreasing as high temperatures lead to longer summer melts. The U.S. Navy published a study last December suggesting summers in the Arctic could be ice-free as early as 2016, with regular shipping routes expected by 2030.

Meanwhile, 13 per cent of the world's undiscovered oil and a third of its untapped natural gas lies in the Arctic, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

That leaves countries scrambling for re-

sources and trade routes. Canada recently asserted a claim over the North Pole, following Russia and Denmark. The Arctic has remained peaceful, with each state respecting United Nations rules on international waters.

But co-operation broke down this month. Canada, the U.S. and Norway cancelled joint military operations with Russia following the country's invasion of Ukraine.

"This is going to cause a pushback on the side of the Russians, in the Arctic region specifically," Huebert says. "It contains two of the most powerful states in the international

system that are increasingly having different interests."

Huebert noted that Russia's involvement in Crimea was partially a response to the Western military alliance NATO seeking closer ties with Ukraine. All other Arctic countries are NATO members. Huebert says further NATO expansion could lead to a Russian pushback, and Canada is not well equipped.

"As the Arctic is more and more integrated, you're going to see other events spilling into it."

Canada



Canada has a small Arctic military presence, with a training centre opened last year that only holds 150 soldiers. A Nunavut military base was announced in 2007, but construction has yet to start. "Canada's very good at plans, but not so much at execution," says Huebert.

The UN has led a decade-long process for countries to extend their borders over parts of the frozen Arctic if they can prove that seabed ridges extend from their mainland.

Last December, Canada was about to submit its claim when Prime Minister Stephen Harper asked researchers to include the North Pole. Experts aren't sure why the original claim didn't include the pole, which lies near a large oil patch.

The next day, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced his country would expand its already large military presence.

Michael Byers, an Arctic expert and professor at the University of British Columbia, says Canadians have little to worry about.

"There is no immediate reason for concern, and no reason to change Canadian Arctic policy — which focuses heavily on co-operation."

Russia



Russia has claimed a large portion of the Arctic, including the North Pole. The government expects the Arctic to be Russia's primary resource base by 2020.

"We see the Russians moving very strongly on supporting and increasing their claim to the Arctic," Huebert says. "They're the ones who put the most money into revitalizing their military capabilities."

Russia has 10 military bases along the Northern Sea Route, a government-charted trade route spanning Russia's entire north. The country has modernized its submarine fleets, built new icebreakers and is considering a separate military branch solely for protecting the Arctic.

"Western countries are doing something to improve their military capabilities, but it's not on the same scale as what the Russians are doing," he says.

Huebert says that Russia will probably act belligerently toward other countries, such as by flying planes into other countries' airspaces, but would likely not invade other countries.

"You won't see direct military action per se, unless something really goes bad somewhere else," he says.

Denmark



Denmark is claiming an area that includes the North Pole. It also claims islands that Canada has previously claimed.

In 2005, Denmark occupied Hans Island, an unpopulated island on the border of both countries. Most analysts interpret this as a test of how well Canada defends its claims.

Greenland remains an autonomous part of Denmark that receives billions from Copenhagen each year. Danish governments have said that Greenland's independence hinges on it becoming economically self-sufficient.

In 2010, a large oil patch was found near the Canadian border in an area previously covered by ice. Denmark has since increased its military presence in the area, with regular coast guard and air patrols.

The largest estimated Arctic oil deposit lies just east of Greenland, near Iceland. "The Danes are wondering if they can get any of this oil lying offshore," says Huebert. "They're also looking at how China's ingratiated itself with Greenland and Iceland." The Chinese government has invested in mining and oil exploration in both countries.

Others

- Norway has made a claim to an area also claimed by Russia, which includes some oil reserves.

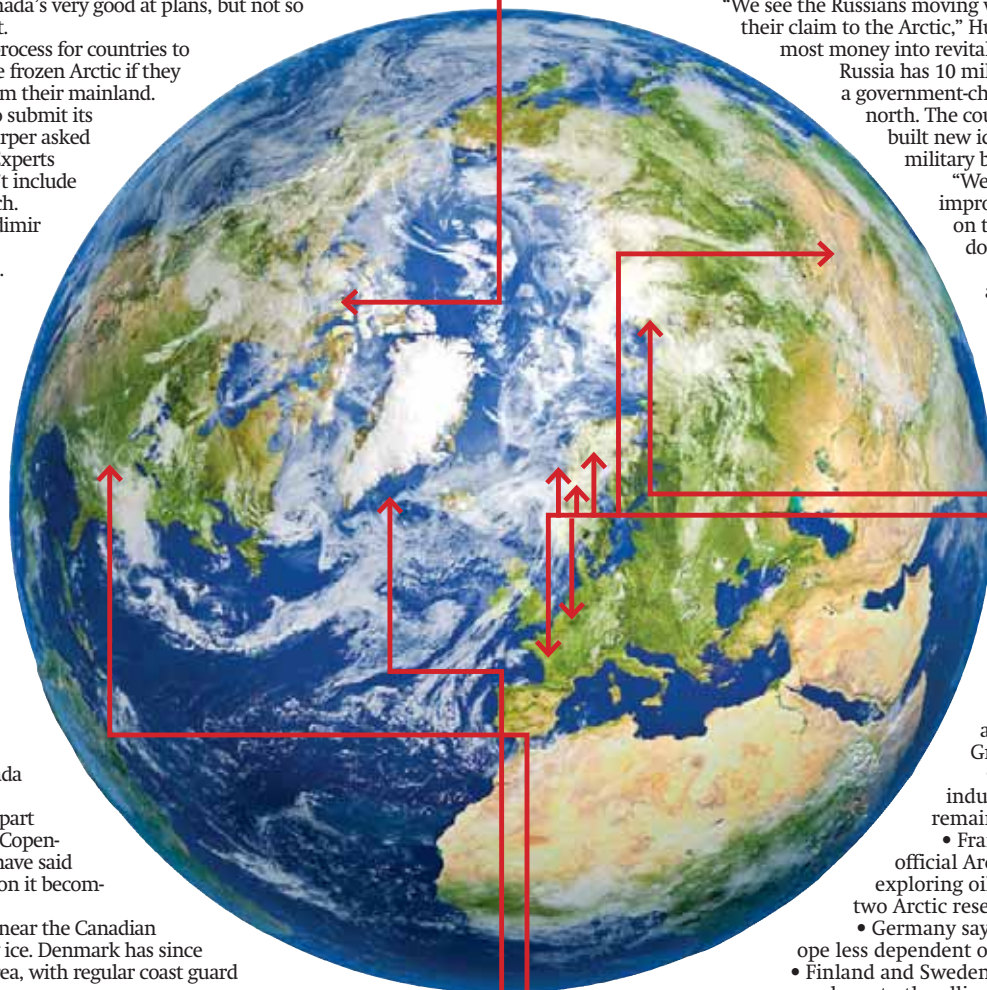
- The United States hasn't made any territory claims. The U.S. wants the Northwest Passage to be an international trade route. It has a military base in Greenland and a large submarine fleet.

- China has invested heavily in Arctic industry projects and wants the zone to remain neutral.

- France is the only non-Arctic state with an official Arctic ambassador. French companies are exploring oil projects in the Arctic, and France runs two Arctic research bases.

- Germany says an Arctic trade route could make Europe less dependent on Russian gas.

- Finland and Sweden are not part of NATO; Huebert says they may move closer to the alliance if Russia further invades Ukraine. This would further encircle Russia and likely provoke military action.



Russia. Avalanche kills two women skiing at site used for Sochi Games

An avalanche killed two skiers on Sunday at the Russian mountain resort used for the Sochi Olympics. The resort had just reopened to the public on Saturday.

Six skiers were on the middle section of Labirint run when the avalanche struck, Roza Khutor said in a statement. The snow buried two women, and rescuers who dug them out were unable to save them, it said, while the four other skiers escaped unharmed. Rossiya television

Newly opened to public

Roza Khutor was the site of the alpine skiing competitions during the Winter Games in February and the Paralympics that followed. The resort reopened to the public on Saturday.

reported earlier that three people were killed. Officials were working to determine the cause. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Turkey

Getting tough with Twitter

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has confirmed that he gave the orders to shut down Twitter in Turkey.

At a campaign event in Istanbul Sunday ahead of March 30 municipal elec-

tions, Erdogan said he had given the order because Twitter was not obeying Turkey's laws. Erdogan said Twitter was applying double standards, shutting down accounts when the U.S. or the U.K. demand it, but defending freedom when Turkey, Ukraine or Egypt have concerns. "This isn't a banana republic!" he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many unaccounted for in deadly U.S. mudslide

Washington State.

At least eight are dead, more than a dozen missing in devastation; debris brought down the Stillaguamish River

More than a dozen people are still unaccounted for after a massive mudslide in rural northwest Washington state killed at least eight people and forced evacuations because of fears of flooding, authorities said Sunday.

Snohomish County Fire District 21 Chief Travis Hots said at a news briefing that "we suspect that people are out there, but it's far too dangerous to get responders out there on that mudflow."

Searchers in helicopters will be flying over the area of the 2.6-square-kilometre mudslide Sunday to find people who may have been

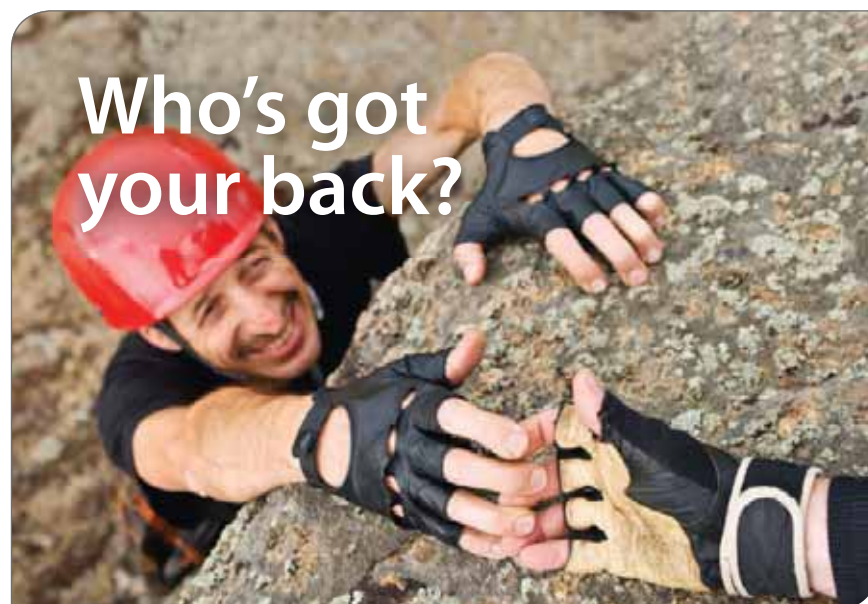


A fatal mudslide brought debris down the Stillaguamish River near Oso, Wash., Saturday. GENNA MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

able to get out on their own, as well as look for other signs of life. Authorities are trying to determine how to get responders on the ground safely, Hots said, describing mudflow as "like quicksand."

The big wall of mud and debris blocked about 1.6 kilometres of State Route 530 near the town of Oso, about 90 kilometres north of Seattle. It was reported about 18 metres deep in some areas.

Several, including an infant, were critically injured; about 30 houses were destroyed. The mud was so deep searchers turned back at one point, despite hearing voices asking for help. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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BUSINESS

metronews.ca
Monday, March 24, 2014

Have a strong tummy?

Then invest in social media. Betting on trendy stocks from Twitter to Facebook is not for the faint of heart



HOW
TO ROLL
Allison Griffiths
metronews.ca

The share price of Groupon, the coupon website, is plummeting. Oops, no it isn't. Wait a minute, yes it is! Groupon (GRPN) share prices dropped 75 per cent in 2012, gained 129 per cent in 2013, and have lost 26 per cent so far this year. That wild stock price ride pretty much sums up the experience of investing in social media. In a word, exciting — but not always in a good way.

Social media is one of the trickiest sectors for investors. Most measures for evaluating stocks, such as the price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio, are useless when applied to these Internet-focused companies.



Groupon stock has taken investors on a wild ride. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

And social media stocks are anything but lemming-like. In fact, at any given time there can be tremendous divergence in stock price direction with some heading north and others heading south, regardless of what's going on in the economy.

Also, the social media universe isn't just out-there tech stocks. Facebook has recently been added to the S&P 100 and 500 indices, signalling the ma-

turing of the sector.

It can be fun to take a flyer at social media IPO's. Those who jumped into Twitter back in November saw the stock soar from the \$26 US offering to over \$54 US in just three months. But a safer option is to buy an entire index of social media stocks.

The Global X Social Media Index ETF (SOCL on NASDAQ) tracks the 27 stocks that make

Social media investing rules

- 1 Limit exposure to a small percentage of your portfolio.
- 2 If the loonie strengthens, it can wipe out price gains. If it falls, the reverse is true.
- 3 Don't double dip by purchasing mutual funds or other ETFs that hold some of the same stocks.

up the Solactive Social Media Index, which has recently traded in the \$27 US a share range. All the major names are there, from Twitter and Facebook to Angie's List, Xing and Zynga. With a management fee of .65 per cent, the cost is higher than most other ETFs but still far lower than an equivalent mutual fund.

The downside to this ETF is that you won't get any of the micro or small companies that may well become tomorrow's Twitter. So far there isn't an ETF for this group, many of which aren't yet listed on NASDAQ.

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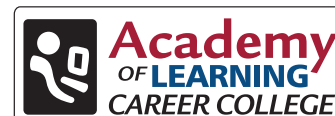
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BLESSED ARE THE BEARDED BRETHREN

The most frustrating part of the human body is that point where we hit our physical limitations. For all the mantras that sporting-goods manufacturers and trainers lay on us, we hit points where there are things that our earthly vessels just can't do.

I know if I spent enough time training, I could bench 450 pounds. I could run a marathon. But it's the specific things our bodies can't do that really, really frustrate us.

My frustration is my inability to grow a beard.

No matter how hard I have tried to cultivate facial hair, I have failed. I can do, at best, some extended sideburns. Movember has always been a bust for me. I wind up looking like a teenager trying to appear old enough to buy beer. In fact, there are teenagers at any local high school who are sporting a better beard than I can right now.



High Plains Drifter
James Callsen
calgary@metronews.ca

This never used to bother me until recently, when suddenly beards became a sex symbol. For all of my bearded brethren out there, it's like finding out that you've found a gold mine in your backyard. Suddenly the very thing that drove the opposite sex away brings them in in droves. That's awesome, but as a man whose physical limitation leaves him beardless, it stings.

Everywhere I go in Calgary, I see dudes with facial fur. It's to the point now where razor sales are down and hurting Gillette's bottom line. There are times when I am out in our fair city that I feel practically naked being surrounded by bearded gentleman.

However, there may come a time when, like all trends, times change. My friend Dan sports a fine beard, and it gets him a lot of attention from the opposite sex, but it also makes him cringe when four to five times in an evening, onlookers want to touch and talk about his facial

Opposite reaction from the opposite sex

For all of my bearded brethren out there, it's like finding out that you've found a gold mine in your backyard. Suddenly the very thing that drove the opposite sex away brings them in in droves.

growth. My barber's boyfriend recently sent his whiskers to the great sink in the sky after three different people interrupted a meal to talk about his beard.

This gives me hope.

So to all of my beardless bros out there, be proud of your naked, handsome faces. Sport them with style. Because before long, beards will be back in the domain of only the true beard aficionados.

And to the fine-bearded gentlemen of Calgary, please, don't let my jealousy stop you from being your fine, hirsute selves.

ZOOM

Motor City's recovering



CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Efforts focused on city's youth

Javon Jones, centre, performs with other members of the Mosaic Youth Theater in Detroit. Several privately run youth organizations provide an array of extracurricular options for high school kids. Roughly 165 young people engage in Mosaic's main programs each year — most

from low- and moderate-income Detroit families.

Teachers and parents are fighting to do right by the children, and many believe Detroit is finally on the rise after hitting bottom. Yet they worry about the toll of growing up amid danger, dysfunction and the blight epitomized by tens of thousands of abandoned homes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Post-bankruptcy

"This is what we're ingraining into kids' psyches — this emptiness, the lack of safety.... They're going into school with a level of fear that something bad is going to happen."

Tonya Allen, CEO of the Skillman Foundation, which backs child-oriented initiatives.

Adding it all up

88

Eighty-eight vacant school buildings are for sale — some of the 200 schools closed in recent years due to depopulation. High levels of gang violence and premature births combine to make the youth mortality rate the worst of any major U.S. city, according to a recent analysis by the Detroit News. Most of the city's 300 parks are unusable, overgrown wastelands.

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Twitter celebrated its eighth birthday last week by opening its vaults and letting users rediscover their first tweet. The results ranged from bland to hilarious, but taken in aggregate they illustrated how people were unsure just what Twitter was, or even how to use it, when it launched. If you haven't already, here's how you can view your first tweet, and a few other services that let you play around with your Twitter data.



CONTRIBUTED

Discover:

Discover your inaugural tweet — and everyone else's — at discover.twitter.com/first-tweet.

Tweet Cloud:

Lets you generate a word cloud of your own tweets. Just don't be surprised when "lunch" looms large in the

cloud.tweetcloud.icodeforlove.com.

Tweetails:

Offers fun, free analysis of your Twitter account, including most mentioned users, favourite words and even a so-called "intelligence rating." tweetails.com.

Twitter



lin"

@metropicks tweeted: Twitter turned eight last week. Find out what your first tweet was, share it with us and we'll print it!

@PlainSJ: Ha! I didn't even know what twitter was when I joined back in '07, but I had it pegged! "@PlainSJ: Wasting time..."

@KellyOlivePR: #FirstTweet was 5 days after moving to #Toronto! "@KellyOlivePR: @ work...and loving being in Toronto"

@MattProsser: "@MattProsser: Chil-

@Harl3yQ: I found this #FirstTweet: @Harl3yQ: Which side of the toaster oven should the keurig go on #first-worldproblems"

@FrenchmanCanada: And @strombo replied. In English AND in French. "@FrenchmanCanada: @strombo when I moved to Canada 3yrs ago you immediately became my favorite Canadian, so my #1sttweet is for you!"

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F This Test

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MIND THE APP

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If you can't give your teacher the right answer, at least make them laugh. This collection of high school howlers compiled by Summersdale Publishers (under the pseudonym Richard Benson) captures the feel of a school workbook with doodles, lined paper, and hand-written, wisecracking answers. Most are silly, some are hilarious, and there are a few math equations that are downright clever

Box office

Teen sci-fi flick
Divergent beats out
Muppets sequel

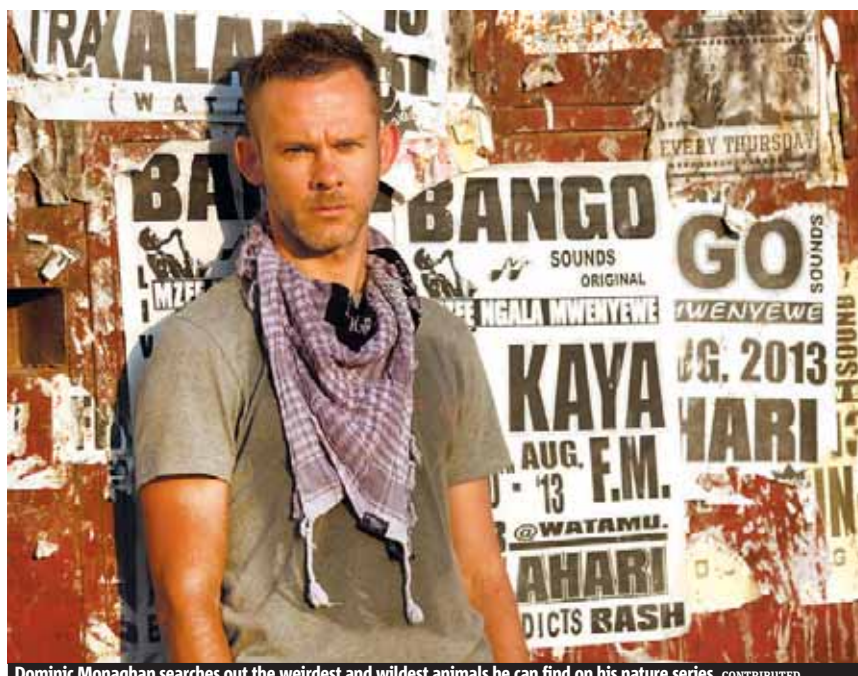
The teen science-fiction franchise Divergent debuted with \$56 million US at the weekend box office in one of the year's biggest openings, but didn't reach the heights of Lionsgate's other teen franchise, The Hunger Games, which debuted with \$152.5 million in 2012. Disney's Muppets sequel Muppets Most Wanted fared poorly, earning \$16.5 million over the weekend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lost star takes danger in stride in adventure series

Born to be wild.

Dominic Monaghan has had some close calls while filming the world's most dangerous creatures



Dominic Monaghan searches out the weirdest and wildest animals he can find on his nature series. CONTRIBUTED

In the second season of Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan, it becomes abundantly clear why the show's motto is "the wilder the better." The show kicks off Tuesday with startling footage of a disoriented elephant that suddenly charges toward the show's hapless cameraman.

Monaghan says the terrifying encounter occurred after he and his crew had watched a veterinarian conduct emergency surgery on the massive beast. Moments after the doc administered an antidote to reverse the anesthetic, all hell broke loose.

"What we all assumed as a film crew was that the elephant was going to get up and give us a gentle nod in our direction and say 'Thank you,' and walk off into the African sunset," Monaghan said in a recent interview in Toronto.

"But instead it woke up and was confused and didn't know what had happened and saw a bunch of humans standing around it. And the closest person to the elephant was Frank, our cameraman — he had a big camera on his shoulder so he was very conspicuous — and the elephant tried to kill him."

Such is life in the wild.

Looking back now, it's clear Monaghan and even his seasoned Kenyan guides underestimated the peril they were in.

As everyone made a beeline

for the cars, Monaghan says he and his crew were too late.

"They just drove off. They left us," he says, able to make light of the situation now.

"When (Frank) saw the cars drive off he was like, 'Oh no,' and then his balance went and then he fell over. But it worked for me because I thought, 'Well, if Frank fell over that means that I'll be OK because he's much slower than I am.'"

Luckily, their medic jumped in to distract the elephant, which eventually lost interest and wandered off. No one was hurt, says Monaghan.

The elephant tale isn't even the focus of the Season 2 premiere, which begins with

Monaghan intent on finding the aggressive giant spitting cobra.

Other episodes see The Lord of the Rings actor head to Brazil, Zambia, Thailand, Japan, New Zealand and Australia to get a good look at creatures including carnivorous ghost bats, the world's longest-fanged snake and a deep sea creature considered one of the ocean's most poisonous predators.

And there are more dicey encounters. Monaghan says he needed nearly 40 stitches in his arm for another animal run-in that will be revealed in later episodes.

Nevertheless, Monaghan

says he and his crew are extremely careful. A medic travels with them and carries anti-venom and other treatments, and they always know where the closest hospital is — although sometimes it can be a day away, Monaghan admits.

"We're as safe as we can be. In a show and a world that can sometimes be dangerous," THE CANADIAN PRESS

When to watch

- Season 2 of Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan airs Tuesday on OLN.

2 SCENE

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George Michael ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Straight talk from George: He's really not just holding out for the right woman

More than 15 years after coming out of the closet, George Michael admits that he had a particularly rough go of it following his revelation.

"For some strange reason, my gay life didn't get easier when I came out. Quite the opposite happened, really," he tells the BBC. "The press seemed to take some delight that I previously had a 'straight

audience' and set about trying to destroy that. And I think some men were frustrated that their girlfriends wouldn't let go of the idea that George Michael just hadn't found the 'right girl.'"

They weren't alone, apparently, as the 50-year-old singer says "a lot of my extended family" still thinks he's holding out for the right woman.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Pop goes the week

Where does Gaga draw the line? At Katy comparisons



STARGAZING
Malene Arpe
scene@metronews.ca

Lady Gaga says she and Katy Perry "couldn't be more different." It's true. While they are both female superstar pop singers in their late 20s with a penchant for outrageous costumes, Gaga likes M&M's while Katy prefers Peanut M&M's.

Matthew McConaughey is reportedly not interested in repeating his role in the se-

quel to Magic Mike. Which proves the old trouser truth, "Get a fancy-pants Oscar, lose the chaps."

According to Shakira, after she said in an interview that her boyfriend will not let her make music videos with men, he said to her, "Can you please shut your little mouth next time you're doing interviews — because you're making me sound terrible." Stay where you are, Shakira. We're sending the deprogramming unit for you now.

Having previously demanded that M.I.A. pay a \$1.5-million US fine for giving the finger at the Superbowl two years ago, the NFL now wants an additional \$15.1 million in restitution.



In less insane news, MIT researchers conclude that Avril Lavigne is the most famous Canadian of all time.

Simon Cowell reportedly paid \$1.2 million for a jaguar. Seeing as we're talking about Simon Cowell, it's anyone's guess whether it's a car or a big, dangerous cat.



Pamela Anderson

Darn that Internet! Even Pam is haunted by online sex videos

Thanks to that pesky Internet, Pamela Anderson never got to have "the talk" with her teenage sons about her infamous sex tape with their dad, Tommy Lee. "I don't know if they've seen it, but they know about it," she tells Elle magazine about 17-year-old Brandon and 16-year-old Dylan. "They know about everything. Stupid Internet. I don't know why everyone is so impressed with it."

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Trip coverage: That's the ticket

Medical travel insurance. When just one slip can be costly, plan is only way to go



GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

My daughter told me she might be going on a trip with a girlfriend, whom we'll call Lily. When Alex told Lily that she'd want to be back by a particular date, Lily asked why. Alex said that her travel medical plan wouldn't cover her for longer than a 60-day trip. Lily announced that she never travels with medical insurance coverage.

I sighed. A lot of people don't. They're under the impression that if something bad happens to them while they're gallivanting around the world, they'll be covered by Canada's very generous health coverage.

No one expects to fall ill when travelling, though it happens all the time. Most things are quickly resolved. The bigger things come with hefty price tags and that's when we hear the story in the news. There's the story of the man who suffered a fall in Michigan and racked up \$168,000 in medical bills. Or the couple who were in a car accident resulting in \$325,000 in medical costs.

So do you have an extra \$100K sitting around to take care of medical bills you might



Don't bury your head in the sand; buying travel medical insurance is the smart thing to do. iStock

incur while travelling? Since provincial plans pay only a few hundred dollars a day for hospital coverage, you'd better. Or you could simply fork over some money for travel medical coverage. Would you rather spend \$60 to \$300 now (depending on the length of your coverage) or pony up hundreds of thousands of dollars later?

Even if you're heading to the U.S. for a day trip, insurance is a must-have. Your best bet if you cross the border frequently is to buy a plan that covers you for multiple trips. Coverage is usually provided for 12, 30 or 60 days with no limits on the number of trips in a 12-month period, so

they're perfect for cross-border shoppers, business travellers or people who leave Canada more than once a year. Planning to be on the road more than 60 days? Single-trip plans can cover you for up to 183 days, perfect for those with a home away from home.

Some credit cards provide travel medical coverage. If you're a frequent traveller, the annual credit card fee is offset by the savings in not having to buy travel insurance privately. Keep in mind there may be specific restrictions.

Some people have travel medical coverage through their group benefits at work. Know what you're entitled to

and whether you must put out the money and be reimbursed or can ask for direct billing to your insurance provider. And don't leave home without the telephone numbers and paperwork you will need if you do end up seeking medical treatment.

Even if you're leaving one province in Canada to travel to another, you should consider medical travel insurance. A victim of a polar bear attack got stuck with a \$13,000 bill for an air ambulance to Winnipeg because she didn't have out-of-province coverage.

As for people who choose to visit you in Canada from another country, they aren't

Shopping for coverage

Make sure when you buy your insurance that you correctly answer all those questions you're asked. Screw up even a little and you could find your claim denied. Here are some questions you might want to ask as you shop for coverage:

- How long does the coverage last? If the trip is extended, can you extend the coverage?
- Are there restrictions or limitations on the policy? (Think limitations due to substance abuse or restrictions on activities like sports.)
- Are pre-existing conditions covered?
- What is your maximum coverage and what are the deductibles or copayments that would apply to a claim?
- Are certain countries/locations not covered?

covered under our medical system. You'd best ensure you've got coverage for visitors in place if they are among the many who choose to travel without buying their own travel medical insurance.

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Tax Talk



Need Advice?

Caroline Battista
Tax Analyst at H&R Block

H&R BLOCK

What can I claim for our new baby, and can I claim my spouse as a dependant?

Q

I had a baby this year. What can we claim?

A

Congratulations. You should receive \$100 per month from the Universal Child Care Benefit. This is income and must be reported by the lower-income spouse. You can claim the child amount for the entire year no matter when your baby was born which means \$338 in tax savings. Childcare expenses are the other big benefit for parents, although you might not need daycare yet. To keep receiving the monthly Canada Child Tax Benefit, you and your spouse must both file a return. The benefit is calculated based on the most recent tax year. Fail to file and the cheques will stop.

Q

My spouse did not work in 2013. Can I claim him as a dependant?

A

Yes, you can claim the \$11,038 spousal amount if he had no income for the year. If your spouse earned some income last year, you need to deduct this amount from the spousal credit. For example, if your spouse earned \$3,500, you would be able to claim \$7,538 (\$11,038 - \$3,500) for the spousal credit. Even though your spouse had no income, he or she should still file a return to make sure you still keep getting all your benefits.

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The world takes a walk in his shoes

Captain of canvas. The Toms brand continues to expand with Blake Mycoskie at the helm

ANDREA
PARK

Metro World News

Just seven years ago, Blake Mycoskie was selling Toms shoes out of his apartment. "It seems like forever to me," he cracks. But since then, the canvas shoes have become ubiquitous, and Toms has turned into a global brand not just for shoes, but also for eyewear. Now, Mycoskie has launched Toms coffee.

The company is known for its one-for-one concept: Buy one pair of shoes and Toms will give a pair to a person in need. Toms coffee will also have a charitable bent: Every bag of beans gets someone one week (140 litres) of clean water in Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi, Peru and Rwanda — the



"The idea that businesses have a greater responsibility to the community and human rights and the environment is much more talked about today than when I was doing this seven years ago," says Toms founder Blake Mycoskie. CONTRIBUTED

same countries that house the coffee plantations.

Mycoskie hopes to turn the coffee trade upside down and have Toms coffee shops all over the U.S.; he's already opened one in Los Angeles and plans to roll out more

around the country later this year, including in New York City this summer. But he also aims to launch a new product every year, hoping to become, as he puts it, the Richard Branson of socially responsible products.

Little money? No problem

"It takes time to raise money or prove your concept and generate revenue and profits. It's not for the faint of heart." Blake Mycoskie

Mycoskie, 37, gave us his top tips for young entrepreneurs hoping to break out with the next big startup.

Keep it simple

Mycoskie says it's important not to be in a rush: "Don't be so overly ambitious that you miss the big picture. 'Don't be afraid to be small for as long as you need to be small,' he says. 'When you're doing a startup, so many of them have this pressure where they feel the need to be so big and have so much revenue and raise money so fast.'"

Instead, Mycoskie says, young entrepreneurs should hold their horses and let their businesses blossom.

"There's a gestation period during which it needs to organically come into the market," he explains. He says his initial goal was just to sell 250 pairs of Toms shoes every six months: "We ended up doing a lot more than that, but had we set out with a big, ambitious goal, I don't know if we'd have the success that we had."

Don't choose entrepreneurship as a career

Mycoskie says it's a big mistake to get caught up on the idea of entrepreneurship as a career. "If you're at university saying, 'I'm going to be an entrepreneur,' and you don't know what you're going to start — that's scary," he says. "Find your passion about changing or doing something where the only way you can do that is to start a business." Have a clear purpose in mind before you venture out into the scary world of startups.

Get ready to be poor

If you want to forgo the big

corporate job to start your own business, get ready for a big drop in salary. "It takes time to raise money or prove your concept and generate revenue and profits," says Mycoskie.

"It's not for the faint of heart." Case in point: Toms lost money for the first three years after it opened. Mycoskie was the one who got hit the hardest by the loss because he was the only financial backer.

Be socially responsible

Mycoskie says the Toms concept of one-for-one wasn't just good for the beneficiaries — it was good for business. "The more I focused on our meaning and purpose, the more I found our customers connected with it, my employees were more engaged, and our vendors wanted to work with us because they were excited about our idea," he says. He says it may be more difficult to make a quick buck, but ultimately customers care about the way you operate your business.

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Meatballs

- 1 lb extra lean ground beef
- 1/4 cup seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green onions
- 1/4 cup barbecue sauce
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 3/4 cup part-skim mozzarella cheese cut into 12 small cubes

Sauce and Pasta

- 3 cups tomato sauce
- 1/2 lb whole wheat spaghetti noodles

Garnish

- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh basil



COOKING TIME
20 MINUTES

This recipe serves four. ROSE REISMAN

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with foil lightly coated with cooking spray.

2. Meatballs: Combine ground beef, bread crumbs, green

onions, barbecue sauce, egg, garlic and basil. Form into 12 round meatballs. Press a cube of cheese in middle and seal. Place on baking sheet and bake 12 minutes, turning halfway through the cooking time.

3. Place tomato sauce in saucepan and add cooked meatballs. Bring to boil over medium-high heat, reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 5 minutes, stirring.

4. Meanwhile, bring pot of

water to boil. Add spaghetti and cook according to package directions. Drain and serve with meatballs and sauce spooned over spaghetti. Garnish with Parmesan and basil. **THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS)**

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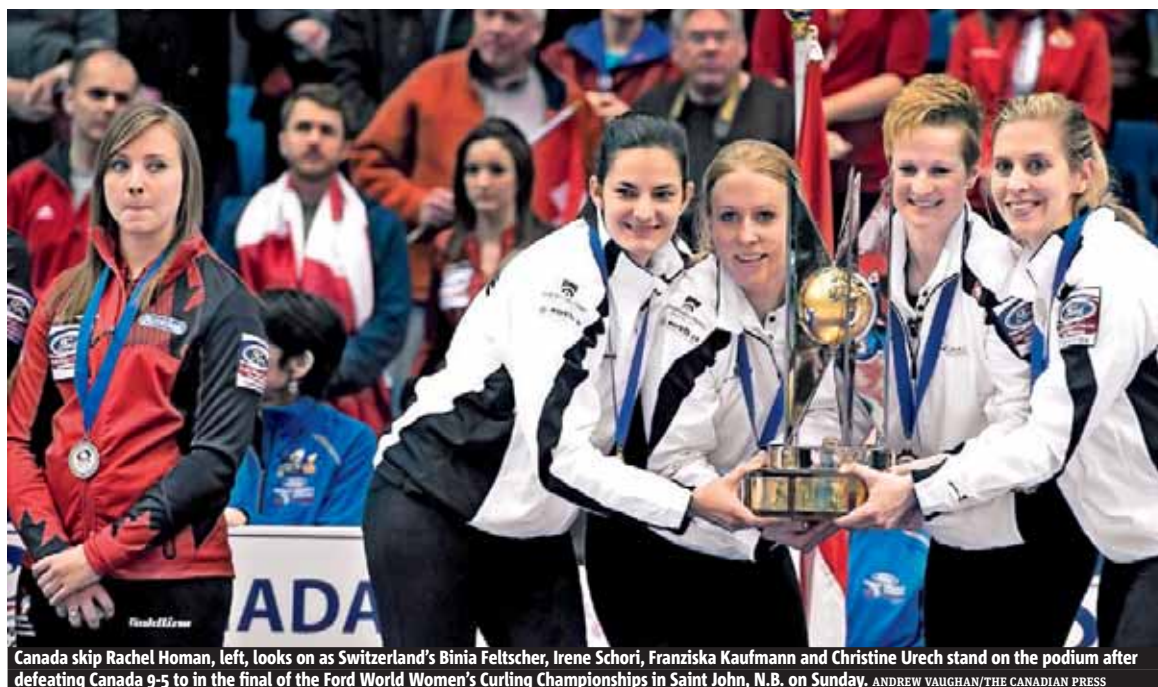
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Canada skip Rachel Homan, left, looks on as Switzerland's Binia Feltscher, Irene Schori, Franziska Kaufmann and Christine Urech stand on the podium after defeating Canada 9-5 in the final of the Ford World Women's Curling Championships in Saint John, N.B. on Sunday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

She's only Homan

Curling. Despite dominating run to gold-medal match, Canadians settle for silver at women's world championship

Switzerland's Binia Feltscher claimed the Ford Women's World Curling Championship with a 9-5 win over Canada's Rachel Homan on Sunday.

It's the second women's world title for Switzerland in three years.

"I can't speak," Feltscher said. "I don't know, maybe I can say something tomorrow. Today I have no words. No words."

Feltscher's victory follows

Mirjam Ott's win in Lethbridge, Alta., in 2012. Feltscher won an Olympic silver medal in 2006 playing third for Ott.

Canada led 5-3 after seven ends, but a devastating eighth cost Homan. The Swiss scored three points on Canadian mistakes and Homan couldn't recover.

More errors in the ninth forced Homan into a low percentage angle raise double takeout with her final throw. The Canadian skip missed and gave up a steal of three at Harbour Station.

It was a deflating end for Homan, third Emma Miskew, second Alison Kreviazuk and lead Lisa Weagle because their record was 11-1 going into the final.

"We're obviously dis-

Bronze-medal match

Anna Sidorova claimed the first women's world curling championship medal for Russia by scoring two in the 10th and stealing one in an extra end in a 7-6 win over South Korea's Ji-sun Kim.

appointed, but we still won a silver medal," Homan said. "The crowd did an unbelievable job today. We'll be back for more."

Homan missed her last shot of the semifinal in Riga, Latvia, last year. She gave up a steal and the win to eventual champion Eve Muirhead of Scotland.

Homan carried the weight of heavy expectations into Saint

John. Their talent and big-game experience, plus the absence of defending Muirhead, who won bronze at the Olympics, made the title achievable for the Canadians.

The Ottawa Curling Club foursome went undefeated to win their second Canadian women's championship in Montreal. They were the top playoff seed in Saint John after posting a 10-1 record in the preliminary round.

Their one hiccup was a lopsided loss to Switzerland on Day 2 of competition.

With raise and runback takeouts, they drained the Swiss offence to win Friday's playoff game between the top two seeds and book their berths in the championship game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Buehrle strong in his second-last spring showing

Yankees fifth starter candidate Michael Pineda allowed three runs and six hits over six innings Sunday in New York's 3-1 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays.

Blue Jays left-hander Mark Buehrle gave up one run and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings. He will make his first spring training start in the first of two exhibition games in Montreal on Friday night against the New York Mets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Skicross

Big Air Mar wins 2nd Crystal Globe

Canadian skicross star Marielle Thompson capped her dream season in style Sunday by winning her second career Crystal Globe.

Thompson, who won Olympic gold last month at the Sochi Games, edged Fanny Smith of Switzerland to win the final World Cup of the season and the overall title. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Kassian plays setup man for Canucks

Zack Kassian recorded four assists as the Vancouver Canucks rallied to beat the Buffalo Sabres 4-2 in NHL action Sunday night.

Vancouver pulled within three points of eighth-place Phoenix, and one point of ninth-place Dallas in the race for the second wild-card playoff spot in the Western Conference.

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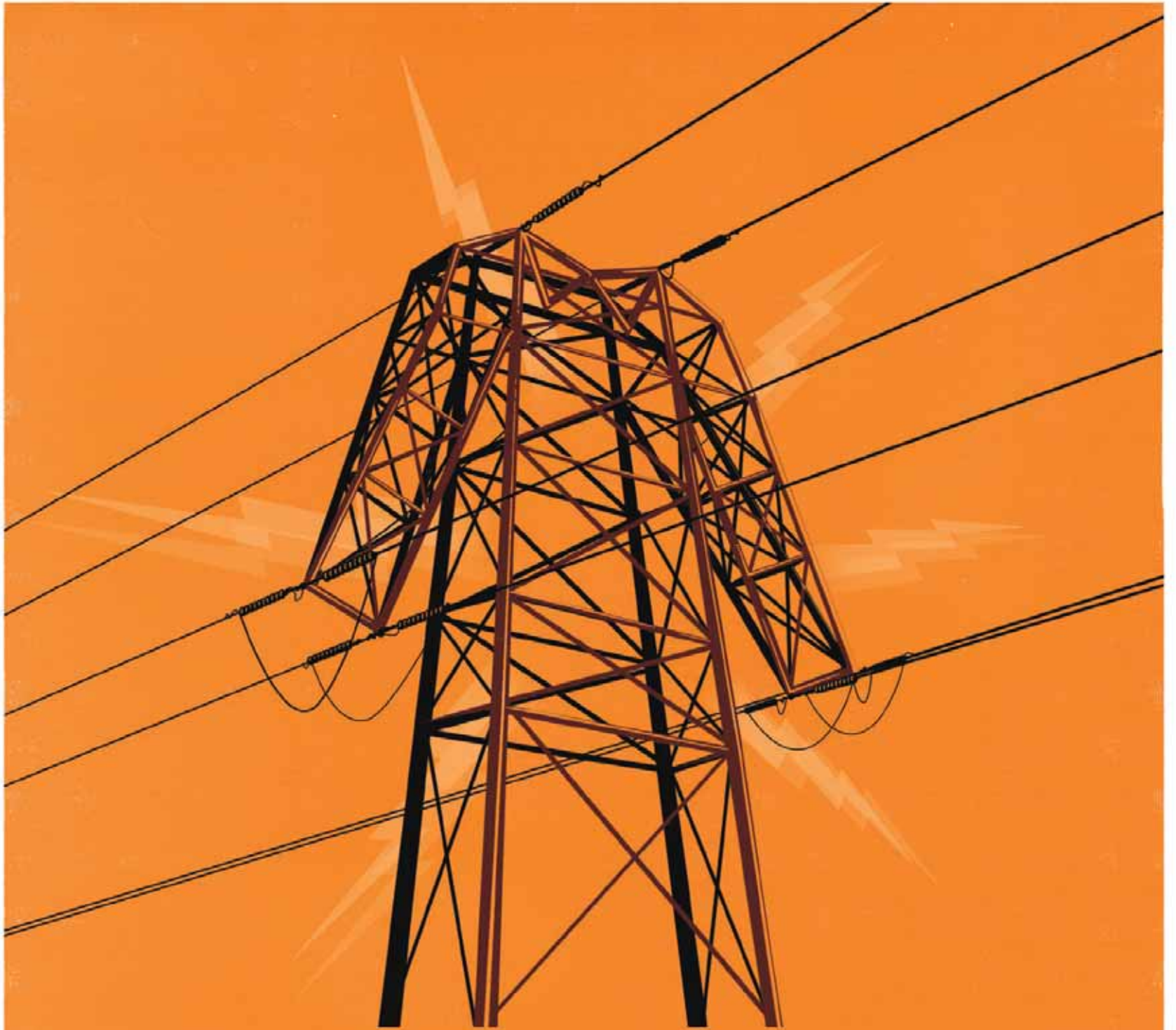


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Sick of winter static? Get **bounce**

O-linemen guard their draft spots at combine

CFL. Lavertu, Foucault continue to impress coaches, scouts in Toronto ahead of draft

They came into the CFL combine as the top prospects and Pierre Lavertu and David Foucault didn't do anything Sunday to diminish that standing.

The two offensive linemen capped the weekend in Toronto with solid performances in the 1-on-1 drills, although Foucault, who was battling the flu, also showed he was human. The six-foot-eight, 300-pound tackle was knocked on his backside in a 1-on-1 matchup with Western defensive end Dylan Ainsworth, who gave up six inches and 75 pounds on the Montreal Carabins offensive lineman.

"He did the bullrush and kicked my ass," Foucault said with a chuckle. "I was too high in my stance and he took advantage of my weakness."

"It was a good experience here to see all the best guys in Canada as well as the CFL teams. It was a good weekend."

Lavertu, a six-foot-three, 300-pound lineman from Laval, and Foucault finished the season ranked second and third, respectively, on the CFL scouting bureau's top-15 prospects for this year's draft. McGill tackle Laurent Duvernay-Tar-

Other standouts

- Manitoba's Evan Gill, the scouting bureau's top-ranked defensive lineman at No. 6, displayed impressive strength Sunday. However, not having been in pads since the end of the season took its toll on the six-foot-three, 300-pound Winnipeg native. "It was tough knocking the rust off," he said.
- Laval defensive back Adam Thibault was a standout individually. Thibault, ranked No. 13 on the CFL's top-15 list, had the top 40-yard dash time of 4.454 seconds and also finished first in the left and right agility drills.

dif, who ended up No. 1, didn't attend, as he'll hold his pro day in Montreal next week for both NFL and CFL officials.

That left the offensive line contingent with three of the remaining four top-ranked players — Simon Fraser's Matthias Goossen ended the year at No. 5. The other was fourth-ranked St. Francis receiver Devon Bailey.

Ottawa Redblacks scout Miles Gorrell, who played 19 CFL seasons as an offensive lineman, gushed about the O-line talent at the combine.



Laval offensive lineman Pierre Lavertu impressed coaches at the 2014 CFL combine. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

"Their footwork and hand placement are very good; it's clear they're well coached," Gorrell said. "You see guys like Pierre Lavertu, David Foucault and Matthias Goossen stepping up to the plate and being able to prove to the coaches and scouts they're ready to take the next step."

"But a kid like Jaskaran Dhillon of UBC really impressed me; this was his first year playing on the offensive line. I also thought Terry Hart from Mount Allison did a great job and I also liked Kyle Patterson of Regina and Aaron Wheaton from the U of T."

Gorrell also had words of

encouragement for Foucault.

"I'll guarantee you every offensive lineman has had that day," he said. "You consider a defensive lineman has 12 sacks in 18 games and he's had a great year, but that means the offensive line has stopped him 98 per cent of the time."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in pictures



1 Soccer. Messi muscles Barca over Real Madrid

Lionel Messi scored a hat trick to give Barcelona a 4-3 win at 10-man Real Madrid in an electrifying match that kept the three-way Spanish league title race wide open between the two teams and Atletico Madrid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 PGA. Every finally a winner on tour

Matt Every took advantage of a surprising collapse by Adam Scott and held on for his first PGA Tour win at the Arnold Palmer Invitational on Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Rugby. Canada places 7th in Tokyo

An injury-hit Canada lost to England and the U.S. on Sunday to finish tied for seventh at the Japan Sevens.

Fiji scored five tries in the final to beat defending champion South Africa 33-26. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stanford ends Wiggins' run at Kansas



Stanford's Josh Huestis, right, contests a shot from Andrew Wiggins of Kansas on Sunday in St. Louis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Next stop for Andrew Wiggins: the NBA draft lottery.

The Kansas freshman, sensational all season, would just as soon forget what looks to be his college swan song.

"I could have done a lot better; I didn't give my team what they needed," Wiggins said after scoring just four points with four turnovers in the second-seeded Jayhawks' 60-57 loss to No. 10 seed Stanford on Sunday in the third round of the South Regional.

Just a little more from Wiggins, who had averaged 28 points the previous four games, might have been enough to send Kansas to the round of 16. He didn't get involved at all, hitting just one of six shots.

Notable results from Sunday

- Shockers run out of power.** Andrew Harrison scored 20 points, twin brother Aaron had 19 and Kentucky ended Wichita State's pursuit of a perfect season Sunday in a 78-76 victory.
- Cyclones give Tar Heels the boot.** DeAndre Kane drove for the game-winning

layup with 1.6 seconds left and Iowa State beat North Carolina 85-83.

- Vols vault to round of 16.** Jarnell Stokes had 17 points and a career-high-tying 18 rebounds, and Tennessee denied Mercer a second straight upset, winning 83-63.

"I let a lot of people down," Wiggins said. "If I would have played better, we wouldn't be in this situation, you know?"

"I blame myself for this."

Jayhawks coach Bill Self expects Kansas to be back in this

position soon, just not with Wiggins.

"You know, this isn't the worst thing that's going to happen to him in his life," Self said. "If it is, he's had a charmed life, there's no question about that."

"I'm sad for our team and I'm sad for him that it wasn't our day or his day today."

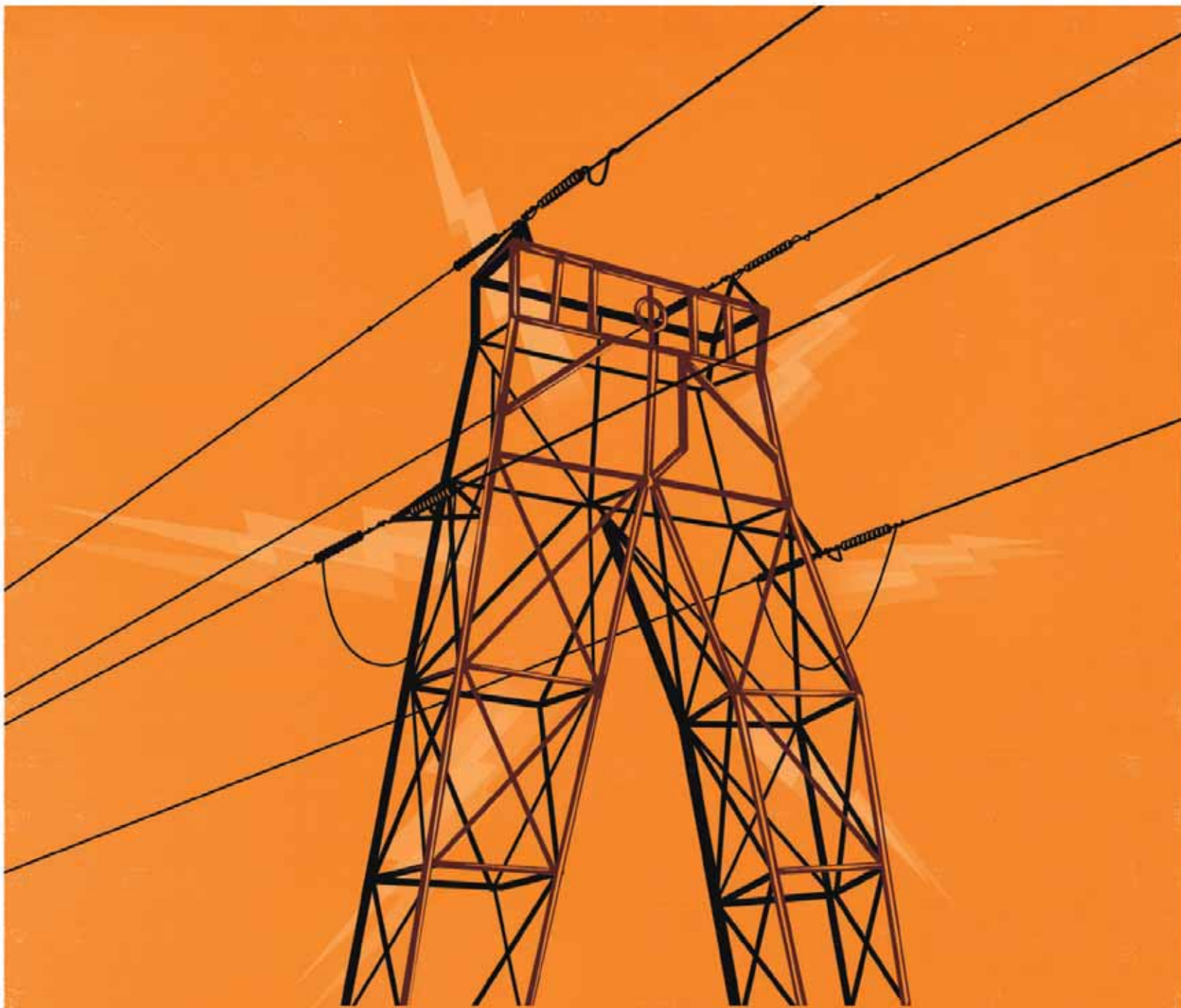
Stanford's front line might have thrown off Wiggins, who again didn't have seven-foot centre Joel Embiid with him because of a stress fracture in his back.

"We don't go against many teams that are bigger than us," Self said. "So they bothered him with length. And I think he had an off-game, too."

Dwight Powell had 15 points and seven rebounds and Stanford wrapped up the upset from the free throw line.

Stanford will play 11th-seeded Dayton, which beat No. 3 Syracuse 55-53, in the round of 16 in Memphis, Tenn.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sick of winter static? Get **bounce**

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you need assistance over the next few days, you must ask for it. There is nothing heroic about keeping your pain to yourself. Why suffer when friends and family are ready and willing to help you?

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

The omens are good now, so why do you think something bad is about to happen? Realize that if you think like that you increase the chances that it will happen that way.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Cosmic activity in the area of your chart that influences friendships means you must not stay at home. Get out and meet people. They certainly want to meet you.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You'll be able to twist people around your little finger today. Is it right to use your talents in this way? Of course it is. All is fair in love, war and getting ahead in your career.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Don't let anyone restrict your freedoms. You need to let those who would like to take away your right to think and speak for yourself that you are not having it, that you will fight them all the way. And you must mean it.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you let fear get the better of you today, you could miss out on something that would have been a lot of fun — and might even have made you money. You have nothing to be anxious about, so take risks.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Cosmic activity in your opposite sign of Aries is trying to warn that where your feelings are concerned, you could be easily misled. Others may try to manipulate you but don't make it easy for them.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Don't be afraid to take risks on the work front this week. The planets indicate you need to be more adventurous where your methods and routines are concerned. Just be careful you don't overdo it.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You will see someone you thought of as a rival in a new light today. They are in fact one of the best friends you've got. Like all best friends, they may sometimes tell you things you don't want to hear.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Creatively and romantically the sky is the limit this week and with travel plans well starred, be on the move. Don't let duties hold you back. You are entitled time for yourself.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Let a friend who is feeling down know you are there for them. Your words could be all it takes to get them smiling. One small act of kindness could have a knock-on effect that transforms their life!

Pisces

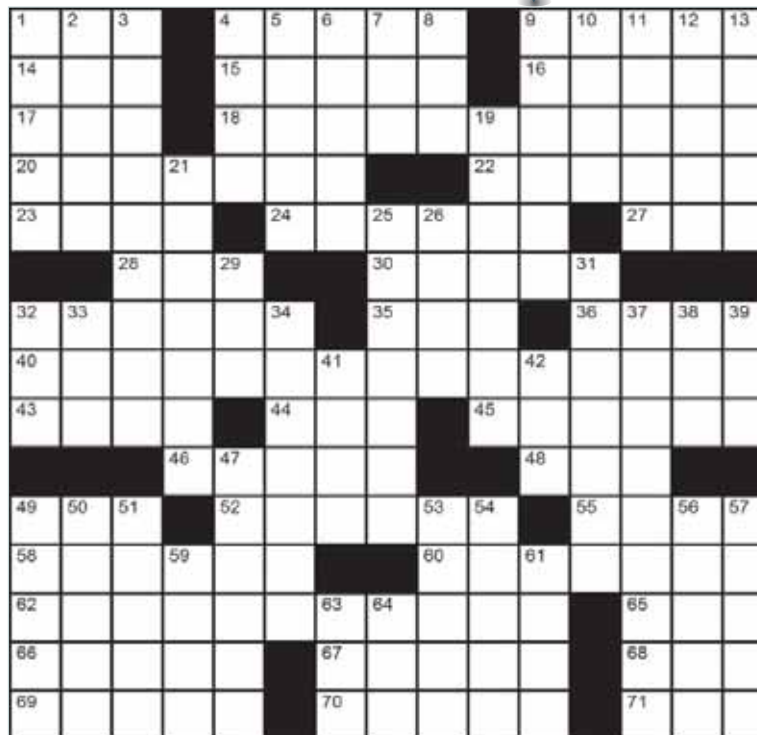
Feb. 20 - March 20

You will most likely make small gains over the next few days, which are then cancelled out by a number of small losses. Overall you won't be out of pocket, so take the rough with the smooth. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. American flight watchdog org.
4. "The Voice" coach
9. "___" I may, I can't..."
14. Whethers
15. Lady Gaga's "The Edge of ___"
16. Hour: French
17. ___ up (Absorb)
18. Kitchener-born trailblazer of hockey analysis who is a Member of the Order of Canada: 2 wds.
20. Montreal-based carrier, Air ___
22. Tea type
23. Follower of 'Que' twice, in song
24. "The Graham ___ Show", on BBC Canada
27. Scot's 'No'
28. Paraguay/Brazil border river
30. Singer Clay
32. Anxieties
35. Pierre's 'here'
36. Apartment features, in ads [acronym]
40. Toronto's whereabouts: 2 wds.
43. Church part
44. Poke fun
45. Boulangerie offering
46. Artwork like the original, informally
48. Emerald
49. "Oy ___!"
52. Looked at



55. Li'l times
58. Food Network Canada show hosted by #19-Down, "Everyday ___"
60. Canadian filmmaker Ivan
62. 'Nova Scotia' is Latin for what?: 2 wds.
65. Fam. member

66. Goodie
67. France: Oise tributary
68. ___ boost
69. Old Roman roads
70. Breaks-not the rules
71. Putrefaction

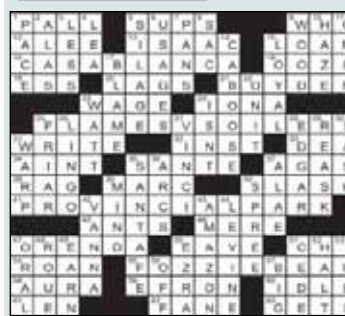
2. Previously, in ye olden days
3. Spring vegetable
4. Friends of 'eeewws'
5. "Show Your Teeth": Vancouver singer/songwriter, Jasper ___ Yip
6. ___ books (Do-it-yourselfer's fave

- reads)
7. "___ don't know." (Unsure reply)
8. Deli bread
9. Soulmate: 2 wds.
10. Fishing rod part
11. "Stairway": Vancouver band, ___ Blonde
12. Sporting facility

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

13. Mr. Savard, Montreal-born hockey great
19. Roger ___ (Celebrity chef, a Judge on "Chopped Canada")
21. Cat-with-headphones-logo early music site
25. Sky surprise
26. Drummer Mr. Torres
29. Sports fig.
31. Least unkempt
32. Cool ___ cucumber
33. Alphabetic trio
34. 1973 Al Pacino movie
37. What Quebec's motto 'Je me souviens' means: 2 wds.
38. Optima car maker
39. Old French coin
41. Juste pour ___ (Montreal festival)
42. Identify
47. Forces from property
49. Twenty, in Rome
50. Strain
51. "That's awesome!"
53. Clear
54. Halifax-born musician Mr. Doherty (b.1940 - d.2007)
56. Ship's load
57. Snob
59. Bygone sovereign
61. Mid-month times
63. Universal ideal
64. Women's ___ ('70s movement)

Friday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Friday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY



MAX: -9°
MIN: -13°

TUESDAY



MAX: -4°
MIN: -12°

WEDNESDAY



MAX: -5°
MIN: -14°

ANDREW SCHULTZ METEOROLOGIST

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM

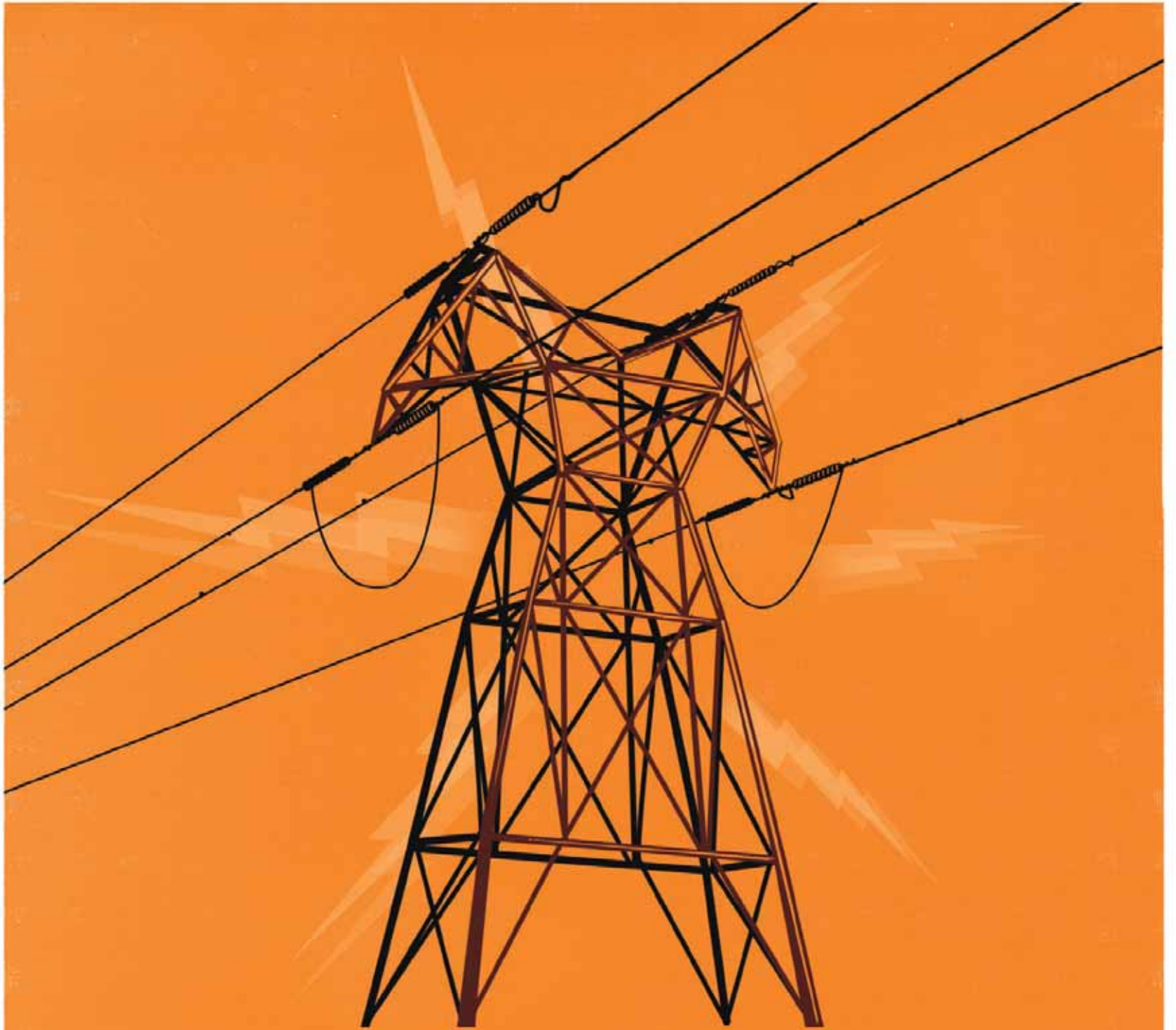


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2014 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT

140237 - 04 - 4 SPEED MANUAL
\$21,798

OR PAY **\$131** WEEKLY



2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO

140801 - 17P - PORTACUATOR BY
\$39,998

OR PAY **\$224** WEEKLY



2014 GRAND CARAVAN

141130 - CANADA VALUE PACKAGE
\$20,998

OR PAY **\$125** WEEKLY



2014 MOTOR TREND TRUCK OF THE YEAR!

2014 RAM 1500 ST R/CAB

141041
\$19,998

OR PAY **\$121** WEEKLY



2014 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4 DR.

140238 - 4WD - GROUP - A/C - HARD TOP
\$32,491

SAVE **\$5,019**

OR PAY **\$194** WEEKLY



2014 GRAND CHEROKEE OVERLAND

140222 - "THE MONKEY"
\$54,998

OR PAY **\$325** WEEKLY



2014 GRAND CARAVAN SXT

141020 - 4WD - BACKUP CAM - 1700W X 40
\$27,498

OR PAY **\$164** WEEKLY



2014 RAM 1500 SPORT

141201 - 4000 L36 - REMOTE START - 5.0L V8 160 KM
\$39,998

OR PAY **\$237** WEEKLY



2014 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA 4 DR.

140233 - 4WD - 1700 L36 - 5.0L V8 - REMOTE START
\$34,448

SAVE **\$3,902**

OR PAY **\$205** WEEKLY



2014 GRAND CHEROKEE SRT8

140276 - TOTALY STANDARD
\$CALL

OR PAY **\$433** WEEKLY



2014 GRAND CARAVAN CREW

141006 - 4WD - 1700 L36 - 5.0L V8 - REMOTE START
\$34,497

SAVE **\$10,108**

OR PAY **\$205** WEEKLY



2013 RAM 2500 SXT 4x4

140276 - 4000 L36 - REMOTE START - 5.0L V8 160 KM
\$34,998

OR PAY **\$208** WEEKLY



2013 DODGE DART AUTO

130304
\$15,998

OR PAY **\$99** WEEKLY



2014 DODGE JOURNEY SE

141001
\$20,398

OR PAY **\$109** WEEKLY



2013 CHRYSLER 200

130291
\$15,998

OR PAY **\$99** WEEKLY



2014 DODGE JOURNEY RT AWD

141002
\$29,998

OR PAY **\$179** WEEKLY



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HOT! 2009 JEEP WRANGLER
UNLIMITED - SAHARA
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14J062A
\$22,998



HOT! 2013 DODGE DURANGO
SXT - V6
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83284
\$27,998



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Savings comparison based on the fees for limited and unlimited transaction account packages and one order of cheques as offered by the major Canadian banks as of Jan 1, 2014.
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